

21 May 2024

C181222

Tim Rowlands

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Tēnā koe Tim

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2024 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about the number of times non-lethal weapons have been authorised to be carried outside of prison. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

Please tell me the number of times a Prison Director/General Manager (or their delegate) of a prison facility has authorised non-lethal weapons to be carried outside of a prison.

Please break this down by prison site and what weapon was authorised to be carried.

In accordance with the Prison Operations Manual, non-lethal weapons are only carried outside of prison to facilitate the external movement of a prisoner, and on a case-by-case basis. Corrections policies and procedures are designed to ensure that temporary removals, escorts, and transfers are coordinated, documented, supervised, and managed to ensure both safety and compliance with custodial requirements. The approval of a prison's General Manager is required for any non-lethal weapons to be carried on an escort, and the decision takes into account:

- the security risk posed by the prisoner
- security measures including where staff and prisoners move through public areas.

Corrections does not centrally record the number of times non-lethal weapons have been carried outside of prison for escorts, and this information would only exist as part of the documentation for each individual escort. Retrieving this information would require the analysis of a large number of escort documents which can also be held on a person's individual prison file.

In accordance with the OIA, we have considered whether to affix a charge or extend the time limit for responding. However, given the scale of the request we do not consider that this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources. This part of your request

is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

As per Section 18B we have considered whether consulting with you would enable the request to be made in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal. However, we do not consider that the request can be refined in this instance.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I hope this information is helpful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Nic Barkley
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability